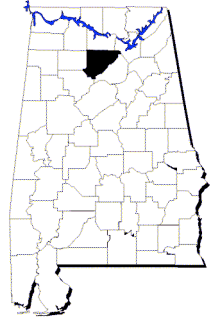


CULLMAN COUNTY

Honorable Kim Chaney

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Ave. SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 775-4766



Robert Matthews
Tyler Roden
Chris Van Dyke
William Sulzby, Jr.
Debbie Preston
Candece Adkins
Sylvia Morris
Neida Pepper
Martha Thomas
Martha Williams
Lisa Sharpton
C. Wilson Blaylock
Janice Sweatman
Dawn Trimble
Nancy C. Horton
Donna Bryant

John Venegoni
Terri Thomas
Janet Harris
Charles Clemmons
Rick Mancer
Nancy Holton
Sandra Rhodes
Judy Bonds
Kathy Kilpatrick
Robert Palys
Cheryl P. Black
Vicki Hawsey
Jack Collins
Irene Hardeman
Pat Spradlin

Elaine Cole
Brenda Howell
Zeb Little
Hedi Walker Susan Martin
Wiley Kitchens
Jeremy Oden
Dan Williams
Dan Williams
Jackie Walker
Kenny Culpepper
Karen Blackwood
Jaren Daniel

Council Priorities

1. Illegal drugs and substance abuse prevention.

Illegal Drugs touch the lives of children in every way. Drugs threaten their health, safety and economic security. Illegal Drugs destroy families. Promote abuse and neglect and an issue in child custody cases.

2. Family Resource Center funding

A family Resource Center would enhance the delivery of all services that deal with families and children.

3. Local and state programs must have adequate sustained funding.

Proper funding for state and local agencies.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Pre-Kindergarten for the developmentally delayed & day care

Action Steps

1) Cullman County Schools have developed a Pre-Kindergarten and Day Care for the developmentally delayed child.

Funding for Head Start and Pre-K

Action Steps

1) Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten programs provide a very important function and need to be fully funded.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Availability of employment

Action Steps

1) Identify and post jobs on proposed website.

Assist with rural economic development

Action Steps

- 1) Invite economic director to become active in CPC.
- 2) Ask mayors of each city in the county to become active in CPC.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

High school education

Action Steps

- 1) Work with schools to reduce dropout rate.
- 2) Maintain Early Warning Truancy program for quick intervention by Juvenile Court.

School funding

Action Steps

- 1) State and local school boards need to be adequately funded.

Vocational education and training

Action Steps

- 1) Cullman County Schools and Wallace College began working with Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. They formed "Partnership for Student Achievement" which works with local industry to identify and train students and young adults for local employment.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Illegal drug use

Action Steps

- 1) Discussion with faith based groups to help access services.
- 2) Participate in community programs to educate the public and families about illegal drug use.

Preventing teen pregnancy

Action Steps

- 1) Education and prevention programs through schools and other non profits.
- 2) Educate parents of at risk children that are served by Cullman Juvenile Court.

Early identification and diagnosis and treatment of at risk children

Action Steps

- 1) We are working to establish a family resource center to use as a single place where all health and social services may be accessed.
- 2) We have a "New Beginnings" program that is in the local hospital that gives new parents information about safety, parenting skills and resources.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Helping new parents

Action Steps

- 1) Developed "New Beginnings." This is a hospital program that teaches new parents how to take care of their new baby.

Parenting skills

Action Steps

- 1) With the help of Cullman Caring for Kids, a parenting skills class has been developed.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Preventing physical child abuse and neglect

Action Steps

1) We are working to find a way to share information that would identify at risk families for early intervention.

Preventing sexual abuse

Action Steps

1) Public education for parents and care givers.

2) We have Cullman Caring for Kids, a nonprofit, go into each city and county school to teach children how to identify and protect against sexual abuse.

3) We plan to offer an internet security program to the public to help parents protect their children.

Reducing vehicle accidents of young drivers - 4000 to 5000 young drivers are killed or injured nation wide each year in automobile accidents.

Action Steps

1) We plan to require 16, 17 and 18 year old drivers who get speeding tickets in the state and city courts to go to a "Trauma Program" at a local hospital. This is a special class that will promote safer driving.

Policy Recommendations

- Require all Adult Sex Offenders to pay a monthly fee to maintain an up to date data base of all convicted sex offenders. The fee could also help defray the expense of law enforcement to enforce the Alabama Notification Laws.
- Laws that would allow all state and county agencies who work with children and their families to share information in a common database would save time, expense and allow earlier intervention. It would also prevent duplication of services and ensure continuity as services are accessed.